



# Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

President - Dave Hacker  
Treasurer - Robert Shepherd

Vice President – Kara Kish  
Secretary - Dale Brier

**March 2, 2016 1:00 pm**  
Turkey Run State Park  
Strauss Room  
8102 East Park Road  
Marshall, IN, 47859

## Attendance

### **Voting Members Present:**

Allen County – Ron Zartman  
Carroll County – George Mears  
Cass County – Arin Shaver  
Fountain County – Bob Shepherd  
Gibson County – Bill Knowles  
Huntington County - Dave Hacker  
Knox County – Rama Sobhani  
Miami County – Ken Einselen  
Parke County – Penny Cox  
Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel  
Sullivan County - John Gettinger  
Tippecanoe County – Jim Andrew  
Vigo County – Kara Kish  
Wabash County – Mike Beauchamp  
Wells County – Doug Sundling  
DNR – Dale Brier (alternate)

### **Non-Voting Members Present:**

Bill Smith – INDOT

### **Guests:**

Phil Cox – Parke County alternate  
Brendan Kearns – HRI  
Keith Poole – Wabash County alternate  
Alan Plunket – INDOT  
Kyle Quandt – Allen County alternate  
Tim Shumaker – Fountain County alternate

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Adams County – Sandy Voglewede  
Jay County – Doug Inman  
Vermillion County – Larry Southard  
Warren County – Steve Eberly

## Meeting minutes

### **Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda**

President Dave Hacker called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves. Dale Brier announced that Sandy Voglewede was the only proxy received; she gave her vote to the president. No changes were made to the agenda.

### **Review and Approval of January 13, 2016 Minutes**

Hacker noted that an early version of the minutes that were sent to members had incorrect dates listed for two future meetings. The meetings will be May 11 and July 13. The minutes printed for the meeting today included the correct dates. Jim Andrew motioned to approve the minutes and Bob Shepherd seconded. Motion approved.

### **Comments from Visitors or Guests**

DNR annual grant report - Dale Brier handed out a report from DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation Grants Chief Bob Bronson. The report included all Wabash Heritage Corridor Fund

(WRHCF) grants from 2012 to the present. It included a description of the project, what work had been accomplished and how much of the grant funds had been spent. The Prophetstown State Park trail project is also listed and it will be reported as a grant for the purposes of WRHCC updates. Kara asked if that project would have recognition of WRHCF being used, Brier said that a sign can be placed there similar to other grant projects. Hacker will meet with the manager soon and discuss signage and recognition. Five projects are still open and two of the grants are complete and closed out.

### **Finance Report**

Brier handed out a copy of the financial report. Revenue continues to be low with the drop in crude oil prices. The fund balance shows the lack of income and is only \$91,597. Brier said this trend was unlikely to change in the near future and didn't see a possibility for grants this year or in 2017. The signs for the river road project will be expensive and could easily be \$75,000 to \$100,000. The group discussed DNR payroll expenses to the fund.

### **Committee Reports**

**Budget** - Bob Shepherd had two handouts, a budget that reflected the current financial report and a report comparing last year to this year. Shepherd stated the fund has only brought in \$79,984 so far this fiscal year, last year at this time revenue was over \$210,000. He also noted that DNR salaries were much higher this year. Brier said that it was most likely due to more activity from the grants staff. It also reflects Nila Armstrong's time being billed to the fund, Jewell's time was not. Brier offered the weekly detailed reports of what DNR time is coded to the WRHCF if anyone wants it.

**Executive** – President Hacker noted that the WRHCC did not appoint a treasurer at the January meeting. He made it official by re-appointing Bob Shepherd to the position. Hacker presented John Gettinger with a jacket in recognition of being a member of the Commission since 2000, the president from 2004 through 2014 and his long standing dedication and participation in the WRHCC.



**Banks of the Wabash liaison report** – This will be the last regular report on the Banks of the Wabash (BOW). Einselen reported that earmarked funds from the art exhibit project have been moved from BOW to Historic Forks of the Wabash. John Gettinger reported that at the February Banks of the Wabash (BOW) meeting the organization had decided to no longer continue with the Pittsburgh grant project. He did say there might be some expenses that will need to be billed such as survey work. Gettinger reported on the problems with that grant and why they abandoned the project. Brier reported that the unspent money from the grant (approx. \$70,000) would simply be liquidated back to the WRHCC as if it had not been encumbered. Brier asked for a copy of those meeting minutes to pass on to the DNR grants staff. George Mears explained the issues and problems that have come from that project. The neighbors near the site were not in favor of the project. The boat ramp was built by DNR and is open.

## **Old Business**

**Non-state funds** – Hacker noted that the funds have been moved to a separate account with Historic Forks of the Wabash (HFW) and Bob Shepherd has access to the checkbook. WRHCC will have to request funds and the HFW will still have to approve spending, but money spent on WRHCC projects can be handled by Shepherd. Historic Forks has requested that the WRHCC become a sustaining level member of their organization, the cost is \$100 per year. Brier noted that until recently the WRHCC was a member of BOW for \$500 a year. Kish motioned to pay the \$100 annual membership fee and Einselen seconded. Motion carried. Brier will need an invoice from HFW. Kara Kish made a motion to request up to \$400 reimbursement to the Abnets for their presentation at the retreat using Historic Forks funding. Einselen seconded. Motion carried.

**WTIU video project and premier update** – Brier said that everything was in place for the premier of the new *Along the Wabash* video at WTIU in Bloomington next Monday. Four members of the WRHCC will be staffing the phones to take pledges and donations during the show. Travel expenses can be reimbursed for the trip to Bloomington. Kish inquired about a showing of the video somewhere in Vigo County in the near future. Mike Beauchamp asked when the video will be released to other stations; we do not know the answer. We do not have a shipping estimate for the DVDs that Commission will receive. Brier thanked everyone that helped to make this video happen.

**Retreat update and follow up** – Hacker reported on the retreat; the Abnet's presentation was wonderful and there is a book in the works from them. Kyle Quandt noted that they have multiple presentations that are geared for various groups that are custom tailored for audiences. NICHES gave a presentation about the land they protect and there are some properties that allow camping near rivers. Kish reported that the IN Office of Tourism presentation was very helpful with the WRHCC efforts on the river road project. The Commission now has a better idea on how to proceed with making the route a true destination.

**Strategic planning action item updates** – Kara Kish gave a brief update on the changes to the strategic plan from the session earlier in the day. The strategic plan is on a four

year cycle and it is updated annually or as needed. It is a living document that reflects the most recent goals of the WRHCC. The biggest changes were to the river road goals – members must get a listing of attractions based on the criteria that Tourism suggested. We also need an inventory of public access sites and quotes for sign prices. The Commission may have some tough financial decisions to make. Kish will start a spreadsheet with information that is needed for the attraction database. It will need to be completed by the July meeting. Mark Newman with Tourism has offered to help promote the river road when it is complete. No new goals are being added, we are keeping the river road, grants and an involved commission as the goals.

**Funding Request** - Ron Zartman gave a brief recap of the Sol Fest funding request for Fox Island County Park in Allen County. The event is April 30 and May 1. John Gettinger moved to approve the \$1000 funding request and Kara Kish seconded. Motion passed.

### **New Business**

**Funding Request:** Riverfest in Tippecanoe County. Jim Andrew asked for \$1000 on behalf of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) to sponsor Riverfest in Lafayette on July 9, 2016. There are fun events and paddling events on the Wabash River. The WRHCC has sponsored this event many times in the past. A written request was given to the secretary.

**Funding Request:** Sports and Fitness Series in Wells County. Doug Sundling asked for a \$1000 sponsorship for a series of fitness events in Bluffton. Many of the events are along the Wabash River. The WRHCC would be promoted on the participant shirts, websites and would receive four entries to all the events. Kish noted that the Bluffton has a very dynamic parks department, especially for their size. A written request was given to the secretary.

**Funding Request:** Pedal, Paddle, and Play in Allen County. Kyle Quandt requested \$1000 for the Pedal, Paddle, and Play event on behalf of the Northeastern IN Regional Coordinating Council on June 11. The biking and paddling event will be in Fort Wayne. The WRHCC would be promoted on social media and t-shirts. Two free tickets to the event are also included. A written request was given to the secretary.

**Grant projects updates** – Hacker said they have technical drawing complete for the suspension bridge at the Historic Forks of the Wabash and the project continues to move forward.

### **Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion**

- Zartman announced there will be a meeting on May 12 in Fort Wayne about Asian Carp.
- Gettinger mentioned that the town of Merom has new basketball courts in their city park system and a 150 foot long, 20 feet tall mural is being planned.
- Brendan Kearns said that Terre Haute has the potential to bring back boat racing on the Wabash River near Fairbanks Landing Park. Key people will meet next week to discuss a race for Labor Day.

- Brier discussed the May 11 meeting in New Harmony. The local tourism folks have a lot planned for the day and Brier wanted to know how many people were planning to spend the night before the meeting. At least 10 members indicated they would. Brier will pass that information along and there will be activities planned for the evening on May 10.
- Keith Poole asked about a website for all these events. Brier reported that there isn't one but events and information could be easily emailed to members. There was discussion about having a website associated with the river road that could include events. Brier reminded the Commission that they can form committees to accomplish specific tasks and those committees can meet more often to get more work done.
- Dave Hacker had some extra WRHCC stickers for anyone who wanted them.

### **Adjournment**

Ralph Weinzapfel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 pm, Jim Andrew seconded. Motion passed.

**Next Meeting:**        May 11, 2016 at 1:00 pm.  
                              New Harmony, IN

## 48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY16 as of 02/24/2016

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 79,984.11
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 9,810.74	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 700.82	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$ 294.30	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 1,098.82	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 632.46	
518107	Payroll Anthem Trad HDHP	\$ 84.25	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	\$ 317.00	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 14.63	
518796	Payroll Anthem Dental Trad	\$ 12.02	
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	\$ 39.64	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 6.68	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 1.62	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 171.69	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 61.10	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 110.47	
519725	HSA Health Savings Acct 2	\$ 4.65	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 137.42	
547046	SpOp-Audio Visual	\$ 27.68	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$ 133.04	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 4,435.84	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 454.35	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 403.12	
599107	AdmOp - Art & Design	\$ -	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 2,000.00	
659410	Postage	\$ 400.58	
659792	Printing Service	\$ 147.35	
750007	Approp Tfr - OUT	\$ 250,000.00	
<b>Total FY16 Expense To Date:</b>		<b>\$ 271,500.27</b>	

## Fund summary

Fund Balance:		
	6/30/2015	283,113
FY16 revenues		79,984
FY16 Expenses		271,500
FY16 Encumbrances		0
<b>balance as of 2/24/2016</b>		<b>91,597</b>

## FY 2016 Expenses

DNR payroll	\$ 13,360.89
travel costs	\$ 5,563.77
sponsorships	\$ 2,000.00
operating	\$ 575.61
grants	\$ 250,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 271,500.27</b>